

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00

XMB-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 L-03 H-02 /044 R

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P 231116Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OEXC, EAID, CY

SUBJECT: CYPRUS: AUB STUDENTS, AID PROGRAM

REFS: A. STATE 220354 B. STATE 233230

1. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION WITH EUR DEPUTY ASSISTANT
SECRETARY LAINGEN SEPT. 21, CYPRIOT AMBASSADOR DIMITROU
RAISED SUBJECT OF AUB STUDENTS AND FUTURE AID PROGRAM FOR
CYPRUS.

2. ON AUB STUDENTS, DIMITROU SAID CYPRUS HAD ABSOLUTELY
REJECTED IDEA OF FUNDING CONTINUING EDUCATION FROM
RELIEF FUNDS. AFTER SEPTEMBER 2 CONVERSATION REPORTED
REF. A, DIMITROU SAID, HE HAD CABLED NICOSIA AND HAD
RECEIVED RESPONSE SHORTLY THEREAFTER THAT GOC BACKED MRS.
SOULIOTTIS POSITION TO THE HILT. SUBJECT TO EMBASSY
NICOSIA'S RECONFIRMATION THAT THIS REPRESENTS FINAL GOC
POSITION, MATTER OF ASSISTANCE TO AUB STUDENTS WOULD
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SEEM CLOSED.

3. ON AID PROGRAM, DIMITRIOU SAID HE HAD HEARD "UNOFFICIALLY" OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE \$17.5 MILLION FIGURE, BUT WANTED CONFIRMATION FROM EXECUTIVE BRANCH. WE EXPLAINED WE HAD HEARD THAT COMMITTEE HAD FIXED ON THIS FIGURE,

WHICH IS EXACT SPLIT BETWEEN ADMINISTRATION REQUEST AND SENATE'S \$25 MILLION FIGURE. WHILE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION IS NOT COMPLETE OUR EXPECTATION IS THAT MATTER WILL NOW PROCEED ROUTINELY. FYI: WHILE FURTHER COMMENT ON CYPRUS COULD OCCUR DURING FLOOR DEBATE ON CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT, ANY CHANGE IN \$17.5 MILLION FIGURE IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE AT THIS POINT. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, DISCOURAGE ATTEMPTS TO RAISE THIS FIGURE, IN LINE WITH ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION. END FYI.

4. DIMITRIOU ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER FACT THAT CYPRUS AID THIS YEAR IS TO BE LABELED "SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE." WE EXPLAINED THAT ECONOMIC INDICATORS MAKE CYPRUS INELIGIBLE, UNDER USAID GUIDELINES FOR "DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE," BUT THAT CHANGE WAS PURELY INTERNAL AND WOULD NOT EFFECT HOW PROGRAM IS HANDLED. HABIB

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), FOREIGN STUDENT EXCHANGE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE235558
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NLPAZDRAL:SAC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760359-0729
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760927/aaaaawxp.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 220354
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <22 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CYPRUS: AUB STUDENTS, AID PROGRAM
TAGS: PFOR, OEXC, EAID, CY, US
To: NICOSIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006